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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4062

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, AORG
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO ILO

REF: STATE 118362

1. PORTUGAL WAS REPRESENTED BY A RELATIVELY LARGE DELEGATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. THE DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY TWO MINISTERS: THE MINISTER OF LABOR PACHECO GONCALVES AND THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRES MARIO MUTEIRA. THE TWO ACCREDITED GOVT. DELEGATES WERE FERREIRA RIBEIRO OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HENRIQUES DE FIGUEIREDO, OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRES. THERE WERE 9 ADDITONAL ADVISERS ON THE GOVT. DELEGATION. THE EMPLOYER DELEGATE, MORALES DE LOS RIOS LEITAO, OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY 7 ADVISERS. THE WORKER DELEGATE, CANAIS ROCHA, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY 8 ADVISERS.

2. FOR THE MOST PART THE DELEGATION REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND DRUING CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT IT FUNCTIONED AS A UNIT UNDER THE CENTRAL DIRECTION OF THE MINISTER OF LABOR, AND NOT AS A TRIPARTITE DELEGATION. ALL CONFERECNE COMMITTEES WERE COVERED, BUT IN SOME CASES BY REPRESENTATIVES ON ONLY
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ONE OF THE GROUPS. IN OTHER CASES GOVT. REPRESENTATIVES

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WOULD SIT IN THE WORKERS' GROUP BESIDE THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVE. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE, WE ARE INFORMED THAT ONE OF THE ACCREDITIED GOVT. ADVISERS, DANIEL CABRITA, IS PRESIDENT OF THE LISBON BANK WORKERS UNION.

3. THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE DELEGATION APPEARED TO BE THAT OF PREVENTING CONFERENCE CRITICISM OF THE PORTUGUESE REGIME. HOWEVER, THE DELEGATION HAD LITTLE TO FEAR. WHILE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING PORTUGAL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, THERE WAS NO INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO CONSIDER THESE RESOLUTIONS, AND THEY FELL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST ESTABLISHING THE ORDER IN WHICH RESOLUTIONS WERE TO BE CONSIDERED. EXCEPT FOR A REMARK CRITICAL OF THE PORTUGUESE HEAD OF STATE BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND LABOR OF GUINEA DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT, THERE WAS LITTLE CRITICISM OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVT. THIS REMARK WAS ANSWERED IN THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE BY FERREIRA RIBEIRO, WHO STATED THAT "WE CANNOT ACCEPT AND WE REJECT MOST VEHEMENTLY THE OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS MADE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE HEAD OF STATE, WHO WAS CHOSEN BY THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT TO PRESIDE OVER THE JUNTA AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPBULIC."

4. THE ONLY MAJOR STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION WAS THAT OF THE MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO UTILIZED THE DEBATE ON THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT TO "TELL THE CONFERENCE ABOUT THE PROFOUND CHANGES NOW GOING ON IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DOMAINS." THIS WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT, IN WHICH HE BEGAN NOTING THAT "THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, WHICH ON 25 APRIL OVERTHREW THE FASCIST REGIME IN PORTUGAL, FORMS PART OF A PERSEVERING STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM WHICH HAS LONG BEEN WAGED BY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE," AND ENDED WITH THE ASSERTION THAT "WE WISH TO ASSURE ALL THE DELEGATIONS PRESENT OF OUR STRONG DETERMINATION TO PURSUE, WITH OUR HANDS OUTSTRETCHED TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, A POLICY OF FREEDOM AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH WILL LEAD CONFIDENTIAL

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PORTUGAL ALONG THE PATH OF PROGRESS, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE." (FULL TEXT HAS BEEN POUCHED TO LISBON.)

5. IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED OPEN PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, THERE IS LITTLE TO POINT TO BY WAY OF IDENTIFYING THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATION MEMBERS. ANY ASSESSMENT IS MADE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF CENTRAL DIRECTION AND CONTROL

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OF THE DELEGATION. PORTUGUESE REPS VOTED WITH DELE-
GATIONS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ON VOTES TAKEN IN
COMMITTEES IN THE SOMEWHAT LIMITED INSTANCES WHERE THIS
COULD BE OBSERVED. IN ONE RATHER REVEALING STATEMENT
DURING DEBATE IN RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ON CHILE, MARIO
HENRIQUES, PORTUGUESE WORKER ADVISER, SAID THAT THE
SAME FORCES OF IMPERIALISM WHICH HAD CRUSHED CHILE COULD
TOMORROW ALSO CRUSH THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL.
TODAY CHILE WAS ON THE ILO AGENDA, HE STATED, BUT
TOMORROW IT COULD BE PORTUGAL.

6. WHILE WE HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING CP MEMBERSHIP OF
MEMBERS OF DELEGATION, U.S. WORKER ADVISER MICHAEL BOGGS
STATES HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE FOLLOWING ARE COMMUNISTS:
FERREIRA RIBEIRO, GARCIA DA ROSA, BLASCO FERNANDES AND
DANIEL CABRITA, FROM THE GOVT. DELEGATION; AND FROM
THE WORKERS' DELEGATION CANAIS ROCHA, MANUEL DA SILVA,
PINHO FERREIRA, CORREIA LOPES, MARIA TEREZA VAZ PIRES,
AND MARTINS PINTO GUIMARAES.

7. U.S. GOVT. DELEGATES STRUCK UP AMIABLE RELATION-
SHIP WITH SEVERAL PORTUGUESE GOVT.REPS, BUT ONLY
GUARDED COMMENTS MADE TO U.S. REPS. QUESTION OF LABOR
SITUATION AROSE ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS, AND IN
RESPONSE TO REMARK BY U.S. REP THAT LABOR SITUATION IN
PORTUGAL IMPORTANT MATTER PROTUGUESE REP MERELY COMMENTED
THAT THIS QUESTION COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER OF
LABOR.

8. WE WOULD CONCLUDE ON BASIS OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE
THAT PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WAS UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL
WITH PRIMARY OBJECTIVE BEING TO PRESENT BEST POSSIBLE
FACE OF PRESENT REGIME TO CONFERENCE. ANOTHER PURPOSE
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IN ACCREDITING LARGE DELEGATION NO DOUBT WAS TO GAIN AS
MUCH EXPERIENCE AS POSSIBLE FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION
IN ILO. ABRAMS

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